

(f) the details of the imperatives cited for granting such extensions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (f) Shri H. L. Zutshi was appointed as Chairman and Managing Director (C and MD), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd., with effect from 22.06.1995 for a period of five years or till the date of his superannuation, whichever is earlier. Accordingly the five year tenure of his appointment expired on 21.06.2000. However, his date of superannuation being 31.05.2002 he is eligible for extension of tenure beyond 21.06.2000 upto the date of his superannuation. Such extension of tenure is given after a review of his performance. Pending completion of the formalities of performance review, Shri Zutshi has been given *ad hoc* extension by three months beyond 21.6.2000.

The loss suffered by Visakh Refinery of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd., on account of damage to property was Rs. 49.29 crores as per the amount written off from book of accounts. Insurance claims were lodged based on the reinstatement cost to the tune of Rs. 115 crores. Out of which, on-account, an amount of Rs. 77 crores has been received. In addition, the Corporation has received a sum of Rs. 138.35 crores towards its loss of profits against an insurance claim of Rs. 138.35 crores.

News-item "Panel Expresses Concern at ONGC Affairs"

78. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Panel expresses concern at ONGC affairs" which appeared in the 'Observer', dated Ninth June, 2000; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto with regard to issues raised by ASTO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) When the Resolution of the Association of Scientific and Technical Officers (ASTO) was brought to the notice of the Government, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) was requested to look into the issues raised by President ASTO, which had also been reported in the news item which appeared in the "Observer" of 9.6.2000. The matter has since been discussed by CMD and his senior colleagues

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RAJYA SABHA

with President and other office bearers of ASTO. Subsequently, President, ASTO has expressed general satisfaction over the status of ongoing activities and has also assured of fullest cooperation in achieving the organisational goals through mutual consultation and common strategy formulated by the ONGC Management.

Action Against Oil Companies for Evading Sales Tax on HSD

79. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO:

DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil companies evaded sales tax worth Rs. 100 crore on High Speed Diesel (HSD) in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the action taken against the companies for violating the conditions of quota allotment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Some customers who were obtaining petroleum products on concessional sales tax basis are alleged to have been diverting these products for purposes other than the intended use thereby evading sales tax.

Central Bureau of Investigation has registered a case on 23rd May, 2000 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Hiring of Premises on Rent/Lease by EIL

80. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Engineers India Limited (EIL) has hired premises on rent/lease in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details of such premises and the rent being paid for each property;

(c) whether EIL has hired some hotel accommodation at Vadodara at very high rent; and